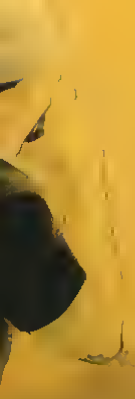

acme団 presents

SAIRUIU

by Hoko

chapter 7

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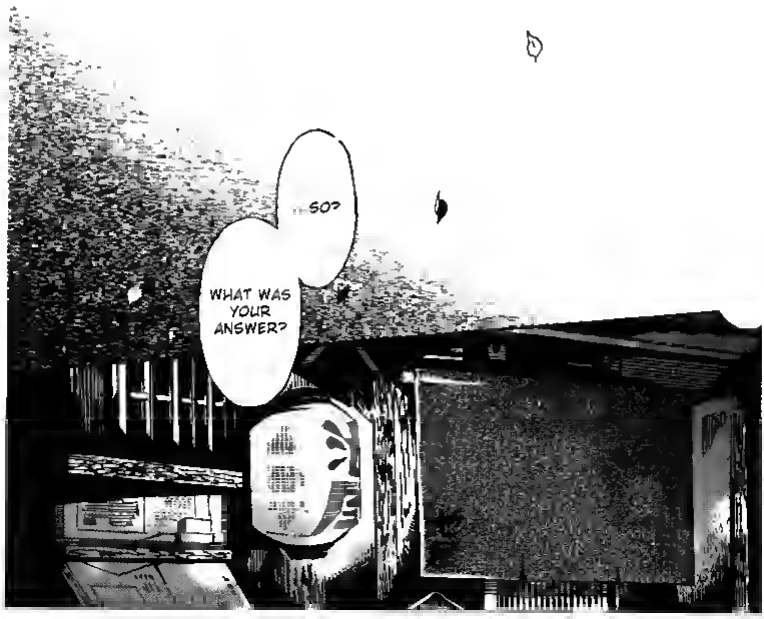
SPRING. HUH?
ONCE AGAIN, THE ARRIVAL OF MY SIXTH SPRING...
IT'S BEEN SIX YEARS SINCE I BEGAN WORKING.
JUST SO YOU KNOW.
...IS MARKED BY A 2-D POSTER HANGING ON THE OFFICE WALL.
scratch scratch scratch
GEE, THANKS FOR THE HEADS-UP!
UGH... THERE'S TOO MUCH TO DO IN THE SPRING.
I'm still tired from the day before yesterday
THE CHERRY TREES HAVEN'T BLOSSOMED YET.
...CREATING STRONG GUSTS.
ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU MOVED IN WITH ME?
THAT WORKS OUT, THEN
WHAT DOES?
INSTEAD OF CALM, NICE WEATHER, SUDDENLY IT WAS TURNED ON ITS HEAD...
How many games have I stockpiled.
Is that an order?
WE HAVE EARNINGS REPORTS AND STAFF CHANGES TO DEAL WITH.
AND RENEWING MY LEASE IS GOING TO BE A PAIN, TOO

SPRING STORM

SPRING STORM



MAN, THAT'S COLD.
So you turned him down?
...MADE IT REALLY HARD FOR ME TO ANSWER...
WHICH...
Half-assed
NO, IT'S JUST... ON HOLD FOR NOW?
Ugh
RIGHT AFTER HE SAVED YOU?
WHAT'S IT LIKE, LIVING WITH SOMEONE?
Well...
ARGUING ABOUT SMALL THINGS, EVEN THOUGH YOU LIKE EACH OTHER...
BESIDES, YOU'RE MARRIED NOW, RIGHT?
SORRY, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN TALK TO ABOUT THIS.
I DON'T KNOW HOW THINGS WORK BETWEEN GUYS...
I don't think I do...
Not prejudiced
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME ANYWAY?
Mn-mn
SPRING STORM*?
HESSE'S SPRING...?
CLONK...
THAT'S IT.
THE MAIN CHARACTER WAS A COWARD TOO, WASN'T HE?
ISN'T THAT A STORY ABOUT THE SPRING OF ADOLE-SENCE?
Ugh... This is nothing like Spring
Mnnnnnn...
WHEN SOMEONE'S REALLY IMPORTANT TO YOU, YOU'RE AFRAID OF HURTING THEM OR BEING HATED...
OR EVEN WORSE, LOSING THEM...
OH, I GET WHAT YOU MEAN THOUGH
CLICK
Dazed
WHAT WAS IT AGAIN?

*T/N Hermann Hesse's novel *Gertrud* is called *Haru no Arashi* in Japan, i.e. *Spring Storm*

I JUST...
I DON'T...
'S RIGHT... 'M A COWARD!
GO 'HEAD'N CALL IT A SPRING OF ADOLESCENCE IF YA WANT!
...'ANT
...LOSE 'IM AGAIN...
...?
THEN HE SHOULD JUST COME TO MY PLACE
Hahaha
SPRING'S IN THE AIR, HUH? SURE IS NICE...
HE SAID HE'S AFRAID OF STORMS..
Um
WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?
Huh? What huh?
End